



Indiana State  
Department of Health

# Immunization E-Letter

Issue #287

September 12, 2008

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## Influenza Vaccine Availability

27,100 doses of Medimmune's FluMist in the 10 pack, one-dose sprayers are now available from the McKesson vaccine distributor.

Providers who have placed orders for this vaccine may begin receiving some or all of their requested vaccine order within two weeks.

## Immunization Program

2 N. Meridian St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Phone: (800) 701-0704  
E-mail: [immunize@isdh.in.gov](mailto:immunize@isdh.in.gov)

## 2008-2009 Influenza Vaccine Update

### Who Should Receive Influenza Vaccine?

Influenza vaccines will soon be available for private providers, health departments and other public health providers enrolled as vaccine providers with the ISDH, Immunization Program to begin offering influenza vaccinations to \*eligible patients.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends the following:

- All children 6 months - 4 years (59 months) and older children with conditions that place them at increased risk for complications should continue to receive influenza vaccinations.
- Children and adolescents at high risk for influenza complications should be the focus of vaccination efforts as providers' transition to routine vaccination of all children.
- **NEW 2008** - If feasible, annual vaccination of all children 5-18 years of age should begin in 2008.
- **NEW 2008** - Annual vaccination for all children aged 6 months through 18 years should begin no later than during the 2009-2010 influenza season.

The amount of influenza vaccine ordered by the ISDH, Immunization Program for 2008-2009 includes additional doses to partially support the new ACIP recommendations for 5-18 year olds.

For comprehensive recommendations for influenza vaccinations please refer to the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), August 8, 2008/vol.57/No.RR-7 Prevention and Control of Influenza, Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), 2008, <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/rr/rr5707.pdf>.

### \*Eligibility for ISDH Provided Influenza Vaccine:

The ISDH, Immunization Program will provide over 293,000 doses of influenza vaccine to children who are VFC eligible and for children less than 19 years of age who are considered underinsured.

### Specific Eligibility Requirements:

- Children who are eligible for the Vaccines for Children Program (VFC) presenting at local or county health departments and private providers who are 6 months of age up to their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- Children who are 6 months of age up to their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday presenting at a local or county health departments who have private health insurance but who's coverage does not cover vaccines.
- No one over the age of 18 is eligible to receive influenza vaccine provided by the Immunization Program. Persons 19 years of age and older are encouraged to contact their private medical provider for adult influenza vaccine availability in their communities.

For more detailed eligibility requirements, please refer to the *Indiana Immunization Program, Statement of Policy on Vaccine Eligibility, January 1, 2008*, located at:

[https://chirp.in.gov/chirp\\_files/docs/III-04%20Vaccine%20Eligibility%20R1.pdf](https://chirp.in.gov/chirp_files/docs/III-04%20Vaccine%20Eligibility%20R1.pdf).

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## 2008-2008 Influenza Vaccine Update

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### Vaccine Ordering:

Influenza vaccine availability in Indiana is based on pre-orders submitted by providers during July and August of 2008. Influenza vaccine orders will begin to be shipped to providers as vaccine becomes available at the McKesson warehouse from the manufacturers. Providers should begin to receive initial shipments of vaccines in September. Providers may receive multiple shipments of influenza vaccine through the influenza season.

### Managing the Cold-Chain:

Both trivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (TIV) and live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) must be properly handled and stored to maintain potency. Both require storage at 35F-46F (2C-8C). For additional guidance see CDC's *Vaccine Storage and Handling Tool Kit*, <http://www2a.cdc.gov/vaccines/ed/shtoolkit/default.htm>.

For questions and more information please contact the Indiana Immunization Program at 1-800-701-0404.

## New Rotavirus Vaccine Information Statement (VIS)

An updated interim Rotavirus Vaccine Information Statement (VIS) has been developed and is currently posted on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website.

Providers may use up stocks of the previous Rotavirus Vaccine version for patients receiving RotaTeq, but patients receiving Rotarix should get the new version of the VIS.

You can access the interim VIS at the following website:

[www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default)

## Vaccine Shipping and Temperature Monitors

There are two temperature monitors in every box shipped from McKesson to the provider:

- ◀ColdMark™ Freeze Indicator
- ◀3M MonitorMark™ Time Temperature Indicator.

Each monitor has been included to assure that the enclosed vaccines have been shipped under the manufacturer recommended conditions. Along with each monitor, a flyer is included that describes how to interpret each of the temperature monitors. The flyer provides the provider detailed instructions on how to utilize and read each indicator properly.

If at any time damage is evident, each provider is instructed to contact the Project Point of Contact (PPOC) within 2 hours of shipment receipt. Contact the Indiana Vaccines for Children Program (VFC) @ 1-800-701-0704.

## Indiana Immunization Conference 2008

Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) Immunization Program in conjunction with the Indiana Immunization Coalition (IIC) and the Indiana Adult Immunization Coalition and several vendors are sponsoring the ISDH Immunization Annual Conference in three cities in October. Come hear the latest in healthcare worker immunization and update your knowledge on best practices regarding childhood /adolescent/ and adult vaccines.

On-line Conference registration has been delayed but is now available at the following link:

[https://chirp.in.gov/chirp\\_files/docs/2008%20ISDH%20Conference%20Fax%20Form.pdf](https://chirp.in.gov/chirp_files/docs/2008%20ISDH%20Conference%20Fax%20Form.pdf)

E-mail or fax the attached registration form by Friday, September 30, 2008 to:

[jiking@isdh.in.gov](mailto:jiking@isdh.in.gov) or FAX: 317-233-9245

## Vaccine Storage and Handling - Vaccine Storage Locations Q & A

**Question:** I was told that vaccine stored in a refrigerator could not be stored on the top or bottom shelf and the vaccine could only be in the very middle of the shelves. Is this true?

**Answer:** *The temperature inside the refrigerator is not consistent throughout. The temperature in the vegetable bins, on the floor, next to the walls, in the door, and near the cold air venting from the freezer may differ significantly from the temperature in the main body of the refrigerator. Ideally, vaccines should be situated on the middle shelves, away from these areas.*

*Many combined refrigerator/freezer units use a cooling system that directs cold air from the freezer compartment into the main refrigerator compartment through a vent, which is usually located above the top shelf. Refrigerated vaccines should always be stored far enough away from the air venting from the freezer compartment to avoid freezing the vaccines. If the vaccines can be situated away from the cold air vent and the temperature in this area is within the recommended range of 35° to 46°F (2° to 8°C), the vaccine may also be stored on the upper shelf. If the upper shelf must be used for vaccine storage, it would be best to place MMR on this shelf because MMR is not sensitive to freezing temperatures like the other refrigerated vaccines. In addition, top shelves are less affected than lower shelves by the temperature of room air drawn into the refrigerator when the door is opened.*

**Question:** We have a large quantity of vaccines, and space is always an issue. Since we cannot put vaccines in the vegetable bins, can we remove the bins and then put vaccines in that space?

**Answer:** *Vaccines should not be stored in the vegetable bins or in the space occupied by the vegetable bins because temperature near the floor of the refrigerator is not stable and differs from that in the middle of the compartment. It is recommended that you remove the vegetable bins and put a container of water in that space to help maintain a constant temperature in your refrigerator.*

### CHIRP Tip

Never share your CHIRP password with anyone, even CHIRP staff.

### Vaccine Administration Errors

Please remember to report all vaccine administration errors to the **Institute of Safe Medication Practices** @ [www.ismp.org/](http://www.ismp.org/)

### CHIRP Informational Sessions

CHIRP Informational Sessions are designed for NON-CHIRP users interested in learning more about the benefits of using CHIRP in their facility or practice.

Call (888) 227-4439 or go to [CHIRP.IN.GOV](http://CHIRP.IN.GOV) to register.

September 30, 2008  
1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

**Allen County**  
Lutheran Hospital of Indiana  
LH Function Room 3 & 4  
7950 West Jefferson Blvd.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

### CHIRP User Group Meeting - For *Current* CHIRP Users

This session is designed for CURRENT CHIRP users who are interested in learning about upcoming changes or who have specific questions regarding CHIRP usage.

Call (888) 227-4439 or go to the [CHIRP.IN.GOV](http://CHIRP.IN.GOV) to register.

September 30, 2008  
9:30 am – 11:30 am

**Allen County**  
Lutheran Hospital of Indiana  
LH Function Room 3 & 4  
7950 West Jefferson Blvd.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46804

### CHIRP Webinar & Recorded Trainings

The classes will be online. Participants need only a computer with internet access and sound/speakers. All trainings require pre-registration. To register please call (888) 227-4439.

#### Webinar – School Nurse Module

September 16 - 9:00 am  
September 16 - 10:30 am  
September 16 - 1:30 pm  
September 16 - 3:30 pm

CHIRP School Nurse training is also available in a recorded version that can be viewed at any time. You can access the training on the CHIRP website or call the CHIRP Help Desk for further assistance.